



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Office of
Science and
Technology

NMFS Policy on Scientific & Technical Publications PD 04-101

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Overview

- NMFS Policy
 - Background and Purpose
 - Publications
 - Scientific Publishing
 - Publishing Privileges and Responsibility
 - Publishing Ethics and Oversight
 - Best Paper Awards
- Recent Policies that Impact NMFS Publications
 - OSTP – Increasing Access to the Results of Federally Funded Scientific Research (Feb 22nd, 2013).

NMFS Policy

- **Background and Purpose**

- NMFS has been publishing high quality information and research findings since 1871. Policy guideline ensure NMFS:
 - releases scientific results in a timely manner,
 - maintains high quality, and
 - distributes results so they are readily available.

- **Publications Covered**

- Peer-reviewed: external peer review
 - *Fishery Bulletin (FB)* – original research and interpretive articles on marine fisheries, protected species, ecosystem science
 - NOAA Professional Papers NMFS Series – long format documents, e.g. taxonomic keys, comprehensive reviews
 - *Marine Fisheries Review (MFR)* – emphasis on in-depth review articles and practical or applied aspects of marine fisheries rather than basic research
- Not Peer-reviewed: mostly internal review
 - NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS Series – documentation and communication of preliminary results, interim reports, special-purpose information that may not have undergone formal external review
 - Informal Documents – Administrative or Laboratory Reports, Periodical Reports or Newsletters, Data for Regulatory Use



NMFS Policy

- **Scientific Publishing**

- NMFS Publications Advisory Committee –
 - 1 representative for each Science Center, Scientific Editor
 - Duties – review publications policy, makes recommendations of publications series, budgets, staffing, operational needs etc.
- Scientific Editing – *Fishery Bulletin* Scientific Editor is a senior scientist within NMFS, 3-yr term, rotates among NMFS Science Centers (*currently Bruce Mundy, PIFSC, next up NEFSC*)
 - Editorial Autonomy – editor's decisions are final, like any other formal scientific publication
 - Editorial Committee – advises on peer review process, editorial matters, membership at discretion of Scientific Editor
 - Peer reviews – editor oversees peer review process, accepts and rejects manuscripts for FB and Technical Reports
 - Staff – editorial assistant, secretarial staff provided by Center
 - Funding – Shared between Center and Headquarters (F & ST)
- Scientific Publications Office (SPO), Office of Science and Technology - Science Information Division (ST6)
 - Coordinates distribution of NMFS journals according to GPO, DOC, NOAA, and US Postal regulations
 - Maintains and supports formal publication exchange agreements

NMFS Policy

- **Publishing Privileges and Responsibilities**
 - No special consideration given to any authors – publication is merit based
 - NMFS employees must document research results
 - NMFS managers and supervisors should encourage formal publication in appropriate venue (NMFS or other)
 - **Quality assurance**
 - technical and editorial review starting with author's immediate supervisor (internal or external review)
 - Office Director has final responsibility for technical accuracy, policy statements and editorial quality
 - NOAA form 25-700 or equivalent form required
 - NMFS publication above Technical Memorandum reviewed by NMFS Scientific Editors and undergo full editorial review
- **Publishing Ethics and Oversight**
 - PAC oversight limited to scientific writing, editing and publishing limited to professional misconduct with reporting to the NOAA AA for Fisheries
 - NMFS editors and reviews are responsible for maintaining confidentiality
 - Reviews may be double-blind if requested
 - Authors are responsible for avoiding dual publication

NMFS Best Paper Awards

- **Best Papers Published in Prior Calendar Year** *(currently in 2012 Award Cycle)*
 - *Fishery Bulletin* (Volume 110) and *Marine Fisheries Review* (Volume 74)
 - Headquarters Call for nominations from all FMCs for papers written or co-written by NMFS federal employees in 2012.
 - The Awards are important both to promote publishing in peer review literature by NMFS scientists and to promote use of these two publications.
 - Judging criteria includes originality, clarity of prose and graphics, and contribution to the scientific literature and NMFS mission.
 - *FB* Scientific Editor and NMFS Publications Advisory Committee select winners.
 - \$5,000 award per paper shared equally by all NMFS authors *(Special Act or Service)*
 - Award Certificate given to all authors and co-authors *(Academics & Students, NMFS contractors)*.
 - Invitation to HQ-Silver Spring Employee of the Year Ceremony *(Travel expense & 1 guest are generally covered by winner's FMC)*.

Recent Policies

- **Increasing Access to the Results of Federally Funded Scientific Research (Feb 22, 2013)**
 - \$100 M in annual conduct of R&D expenditures must develop a plan
 - Applies to Federally funded **scientific publications** and digital scientific data
- Public Access Plan elements must address:
 - existing archives and partnerships with relevant research journals;
 - public's ability to locate and access digital data;
 - search, archival, and dissemination features; innovation in accessibility and interoperability; ensuring long-term stewardship;
 - notifying scientific researchers of their obligations, measuring and enforcing compliance with;
 - identifying resources within the existing agency budget to implement the plan
- Each agency shall submit its draft plan to OSTP within six months of publication of this memorandum

Memorandum found at:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/ostp_public_access_memo_2013.pdf

Recent Policies

- **Objectives for Access to Scientific Publications:**
 - Enhance innovation and competition in business
 - Prevent unauthorized mass redistribution of scholarly publications
 - Facilitate access to read, download, and analyze digital final peer reviewed manuscripts (12-month embargo)
 - Ensure free, full and immediate public access to metadata (interoperable format) linked to full text and supplemental materials (post embargo)
 - Encourage public-private collaboration for interoperability of public and private platforms, enhance value to stakeholders, avoid duplicate mechanisms, maximize research investment
 - Ensure attribution to authors, journals, and original publishers is maintained
 - Ensure free access to publications and metadata archived for long-term preservation, and standard nonproprietary formats that provide access for persons with disabilities and enable integration and interoperability with Federal and other archives

Questions